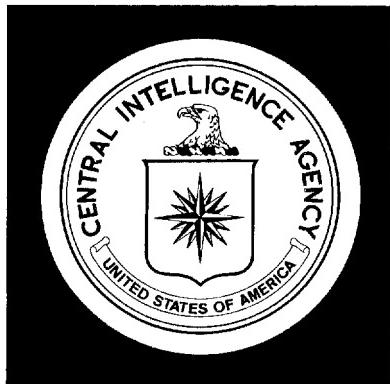


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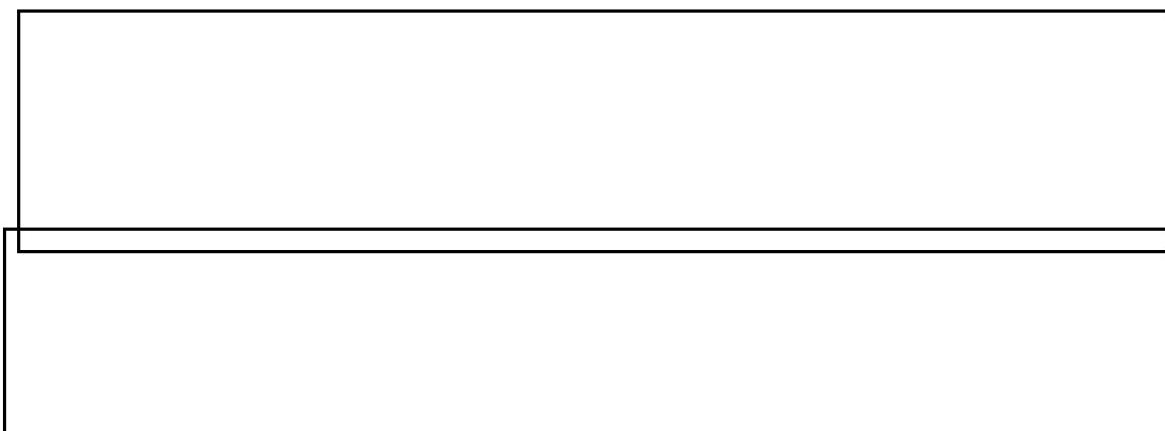
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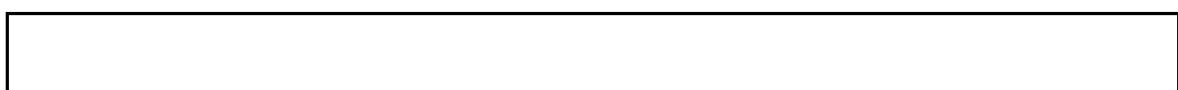


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ETHIOPIA: Emperor's announcement concerning succession is clarified. (Page 7)

BRAZIL: President Geisel plans to merge two states in reorganization move. (Page 9)



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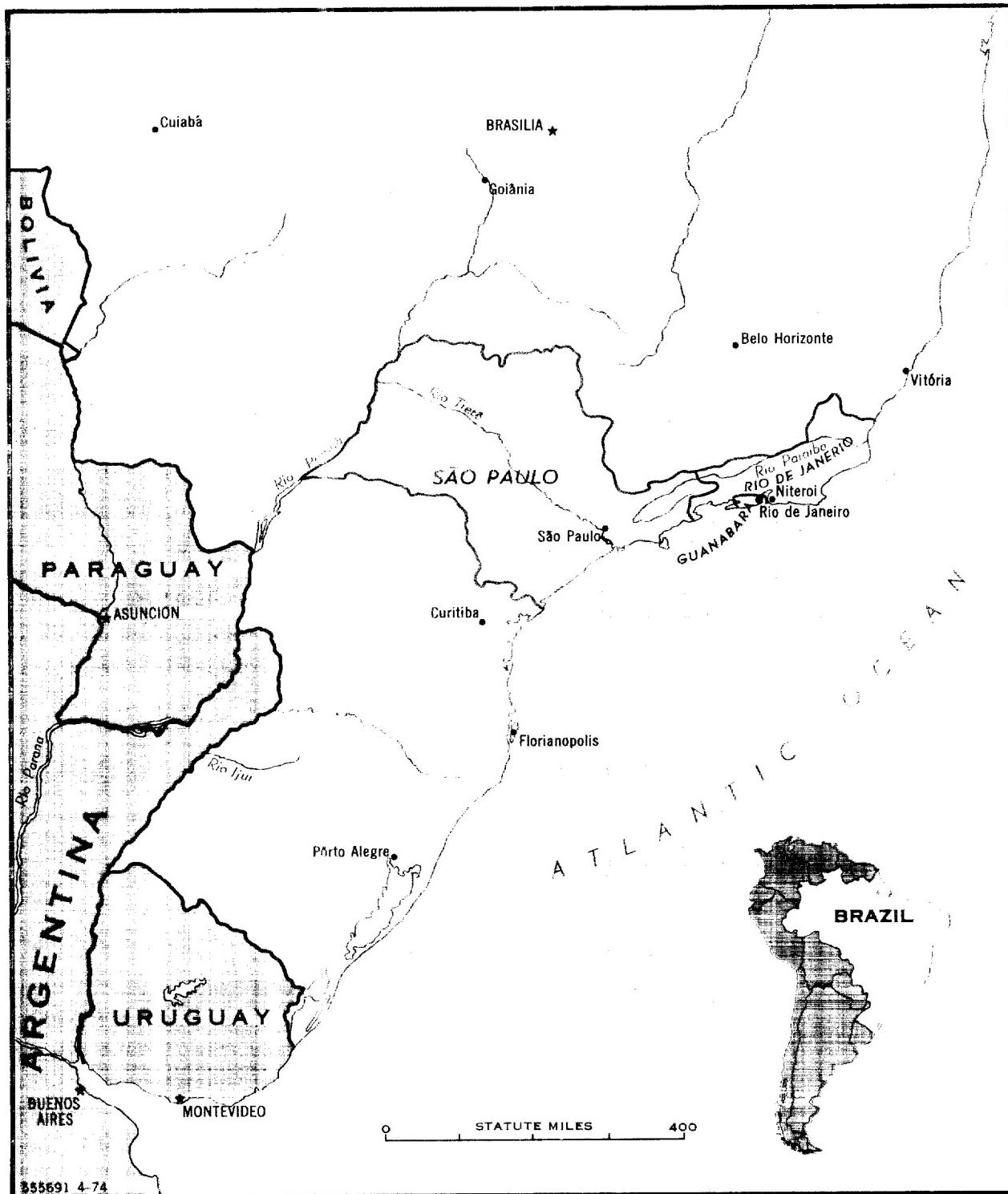
ETHIOPIA: The US Embassy has clarified Emperor Haile Selassie's announcement this week on the succession question.

Crown Prince Asfa Wossen is still slated to become Haile Selassie's immediate successor, contrary to earlier reports that the Crown Prince had been removed from the line of succession. Haile Selassie designated Asfa Wossen's only son, Zara Yacob, 21, to be next in line for the throne after the Crown Prince.

The added legitimacy given Zara Yacob's position, however, sets the stage for the eventual removal of Asfa Wossen from the line of succession on the grounds of ill health. Asfa Wossen is partially paralyzed and has difficulty speaking as a result of a stroke he suffered a little over a year ago.

Moderate reformists in the military probably urged the Emperor to clarify the succession picture because of their concern over Asfa Wossen's health. The military, supported by the cabinet, will probably continue to use their influence to ensure that Zara Yacob eventually becomes emperor.

[Redacted]



BRAZIL: President Geisel's plan to merge the states of Guanabara and Rio de Janeiro will effectively end maneuvering for the gubernatorial succession, which has been under way in both states, and deprive the opposition party of the only state--Guanabara--that it now controls. The government party will have a strong majority in the new state.

Shortly after its inauguration, the administration, without consulting either state, prepared a timetable and procedure for the move. The current governors will finish their terms as scheduled in March 1975, at which time a single administrator will be named. While Geisel apparently wants to avoid invoking the regime's "exceptional" powers and will seek opinions from state assemblies, he clearly will not tolerate any interference with the basic thrust of the plan.

Fusion of the states has been debated for years, largely by politicians opposing it and businessmen favoring it. Geisel's move is an attempt to streamline regional administration as well as to lessen the impact of the opposition party. In addition, Geisel may feel that the new, large state will help to balance the overwhelming influence of highly industrialized Sao Paulo State.

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